

Kentucky Permanency Roundtables

Partnership with Casey Family Programs

Presentation developed in partnership with:

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Who Wouldn't Want a Family?



Learning Objectives for This Session



■ Permanence

- Gain better understanding of the benefits of permanence
- Identify specific skills and behaviors related to permanence that can be implemented in practice.
- Develop knowledge of the KY Permanency Roundtable process, and identification of the vital role of community partners in achieving permanency goals for Kentucky's children.

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE PROCESS Fall 2009

- In the summer of 2009 we began planning for the first KY Roundtables.
- DCBS identified, through the CFSR Performance Improvement Plan a need to focus on Permanency for children in OOHC 18 -48 months with a goal of Return to Parent. We asked that staff choose nine of their most difficult cases meeting this criteria for a Roundtable review.

Overview of the Specific PIP Tasks

- Insure that families remain together whenever possible – increase the effectiveness of in-home services.
- Insure that families in Foster care receive effective interventions to facilitate reunification.
- Insure that families, particularly fathers, are engaged in case planning and service delivery.
- Insure that appropriate relatives are utilized as resources for placement and/or support.
- Insure that permanency goals are appropriate and achieved in a timely fashion.
- Insure that foster parents and relative caregivers are supported.

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE PROCESS Fall 2009 Cont.

- Beginning in September- November we met for 3 days together across the state with case workers, supervisors, clinical associates, administrative associates, OOHC specialist and Service Region Administrators to take a very in depth and structured look at each of their nine cases chosen for review.
- Upon completing the reviews within each region our staff would have in hand a very specific “Action Plan”. This would be developed with a focus on permanency and establishing/maintaining connections for each child.

The Permanency Roundtable goals:

- To develop a permanency plan for specific children that can be realistically implemented. To establish life long connections and/or supports for these children.
- To stimulate analytical thinking with our staff and develop/model clinical practice as we seek pathways to permanency for these children and other children.
- To identify and address barriers to permanency that might be changed through professional development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners.

Target Children and Families

- **Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009**

Who are the target children?

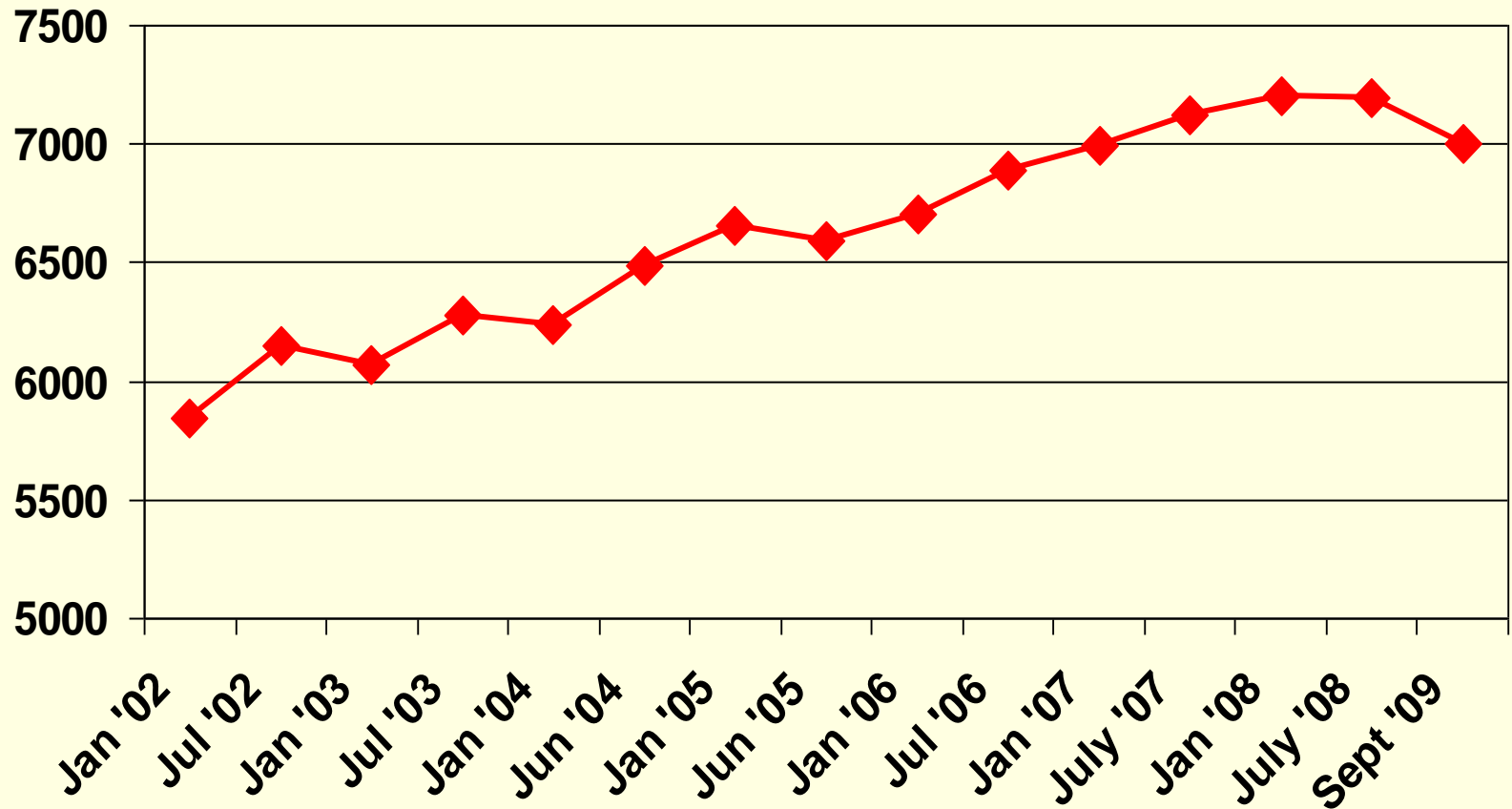
- **About 640 children at any point in time.**
 - **In previous year, about 37.5% of these children exited OOHC to permanency or for some emancipation.**
 - **On average entered care at 8 years of age.**
 - **On average are now 11 years old.**
 - **Have an average of 3-4 moves in care.**
 - **40% were part of a sibling group also in the target group.**
 - **42.8% had reentered care at least once.**
 - **> 50% were placed in PCC homes or residential.**
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- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

Target Children from Families with Chronic Abuse/Neglect

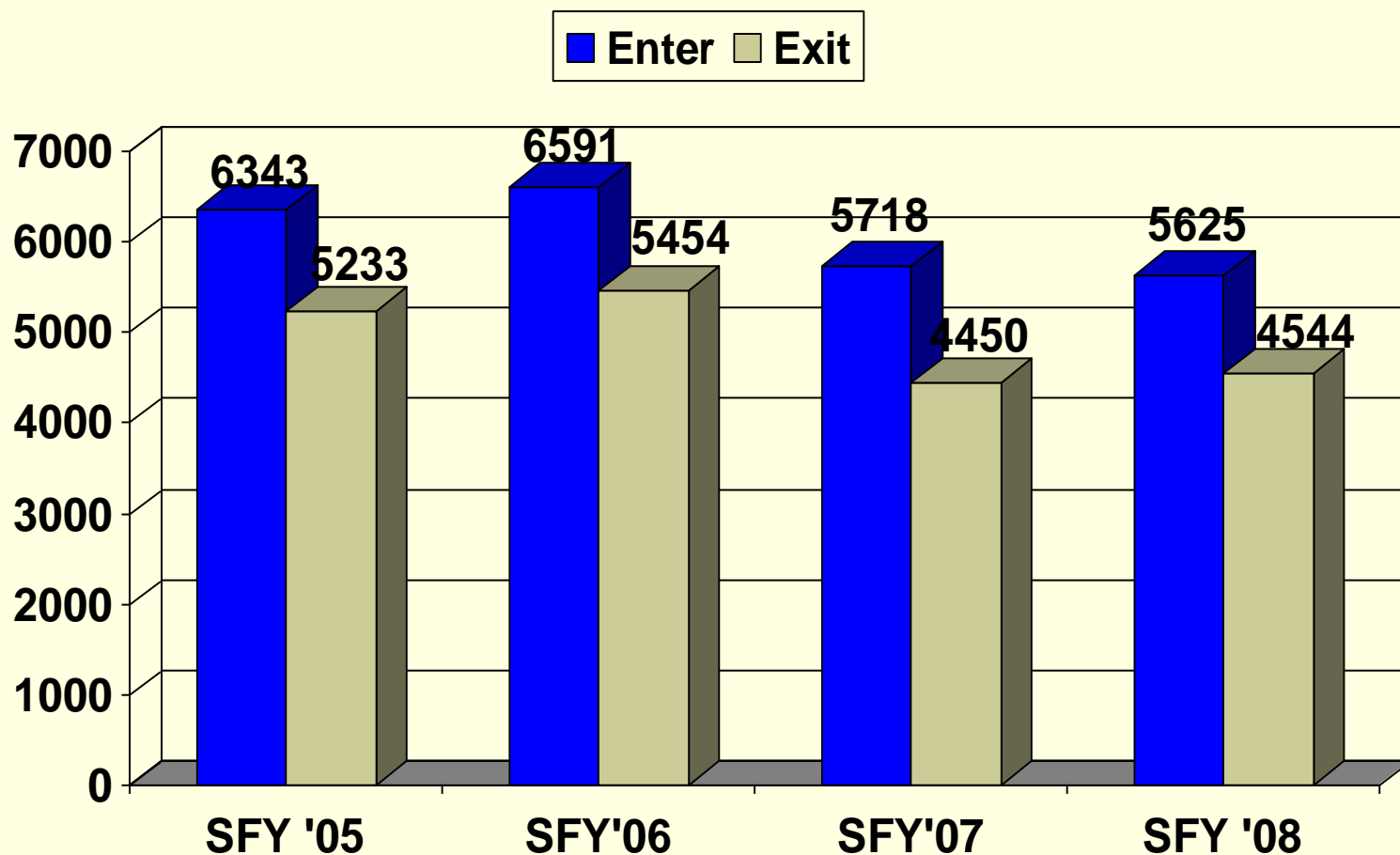
- **On average had 2.3 substantiated referrals.**
 - **For 137 children (21.3%), the first substantiated referral in the family was BEFORE they were born.**
 - **18% of families had another substantiated referral (adult or child) 60 days or longer AFTER the child's most recent entry to OOHC.**
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- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

in OOHC

(Increase 28% since Jan 02)



of Children Entering and Exiting OOHC



Why These Trends?

- **Numbers in OOHC are increasing because fewer children are exiting.**
 - **These children are have limited progress toward permanency in OOHC.**
 - **What to do?**
 - **Find ways to help children achieve permanency**
- **Voila! - Casey Family Programs and the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables.**

Permanence: What is it? A Professional Perspective

“The highest level of physical, legal and emotional safety and security that can be attained for each individual child or youth within the context of a family relationship.”

Lauren Frey & 1st Stuart
Permanency Convening



Permanency: A Youth Perspective

They're always talking about this Permanency stuff. You know social workers. . .lawyers . . . always using these big social work terms to talk about simple things. One day one of them finally described what she meant by permanency.

After I listened to her description, which was the first time anyone ever told me what the term meant, I said, "Oh, that's what you mean? Yeah, I want permanency in my life. I don't think I ever had that! When can I get it?"

Youth in care



WHAT is Permanence?

A Youth Perspective

- PERMANENCE is **NOT** a place ~
- Permanency is a state of mind, *not a placement*;
- Permanence is having the feeling that you are **connected**,
- That there is someone *in the middle of the night* who will answer your **collect** phone call,
- Or **miss you** when you don't show up.



Permanence: What is it?

My working definition



- A parent or two – A parenting relationship with at least one adult
- Intent – a mutual understanding that this relationship is intended to last forever
- Unconditional commitment by the adult(s)
- Participation of all parties in the relationship
- Lifelong and mutual support and involvement
- Intimacy & Belonging – “My son”, “my mom”
- Status How the world views your relationships

Genuine Permanence:

3 Tests

- **The “Miss-me-when-I-don’t-show-up” Test**
- **The “Age 34” Test**
- **The “Hospital” Test**

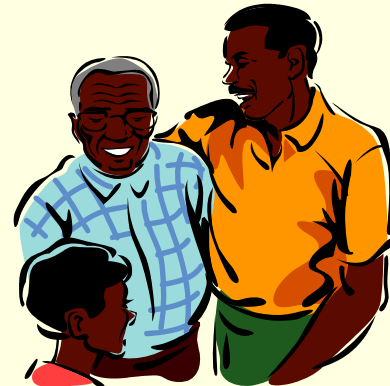
Permanence is

- **PERMANENCE IS FOR NOW** - What does permanence mean for young people preparing to leave care?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR THE FUTURE**: What might it mean in 5,10 or 20 years?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR ALL YOUTH**: Including those who will need adult residential care, or with a permanency plan of Emancipation
- **PERMANENCE CAN BE CREATED**:

Stories -



Amy



Jake

If we understand the importance of permanence —
why can't we achieve it for all of our children
and youth?

“FAMILIESARENOWHERE”

HOW - Do we help move children, youth and families towards permanence?

- Get “P.O’ed” (Nancy Salyers) EVERYONE needs to be “Permanency Oriented”
- Think about how these messages get communicated
- Keep a sense of URGENCY
- Think about WHO to include
- Use team meetings as a tool in planning and decision making

5 KEY QUESTIONS

- What will it take?
- What can we try again that has been tried before?
- What can we do differently?
- What can we do concurrently?
- How can we engage the youth in developing & implementing the plan?



I Always Thought I Was Adoptable

I always thought that I was adoptable even though I was 16 years old, but my social worker kept saying I was too old every time I asked him about it. I worked after-school at this hardware store and the guy who owned it was so kind to me. He was such a good guy and I always talked to him. I never really told him I was in foster care, but one day when we got to talking, he started to ask me a lot of questions about my family and then about life in foster care. I invited him to my case conference because my social worker said I could invite anyone who I wanted to, and at that point he asked about adoption. I was shocked at first, but it made sense. We finalized my adoption three months ago. That day was the happiest day of my life.

- *Former foster youth*



Summary of Key Points

- **No child should ever grow up in foster care** ~ Permanency is vital for healthy development and well-being in all children and youth.
- **Permanency is possible and achievable** for all Kentucky children and youth.
- **Meaningful, effective engagement** of the youth, parents, caregivers and other significant people **is the key to successful permanency outcomes.**
- **Using a team approach improves** engagement opportunities and permanency **outcomes**
- **There are skills, strategies and specific casework behaviors that,** when consistently applied, can enhance practice and improve outcomes.

KY SUCCESS STORIES

- 16 year old male; father & siblings
- 10 year old male; BD teacher
- 3 siblings; Aunt & Uncle

KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESSES 2009

- Kentucky Roundtables Update: June 2010
- • **Permanency Achieved** for 16 cases involving 20 children
- • **New Connections** made for 91 children
- • **New Services** have begun for 95 children
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- • **12 children with goal changes**
- 8 of these children are already in a permanent home
- • **13 children identified as returning home soon**
- • **28 children with goal changes pending**
- 14 of these children are in an adoptive placement

“KY STAFF COMMENTS”

- The roundtable is a non-threatening atmosphere
- Leave feeling very supported
- There is a share in responsibility/action plans
- A Barrier Busting opportunity; statewide & Region wide
- Very Child focused; A life long connections/supports perspective
- Thinking outside of the box
- Helps DCBS administration better understand the role of front line workers

KY Roundtables

■ **Now onto Phase II**